

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of April 13, 2006. The first paragraph of the specification, which had been added by the Preliminary Amendment filed herein on April 21, 2005, is amended for greater clarity. In a sincere effort to advance the prosecution of this application, claim 1 is reduced in scope, and claims 3-6, 8, 10-22, and 25-32 are cancelled, without prejudice. New claims 34-35 are added, directed to preferred embodiments of the invention. Overall, the claims are amended to address the issues raised by the Examiner under the second paragraph of 35 USC § 112. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 23, 24, 34, and 35 are pending in the application.

Priority. On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner raises issues with respect to “priority”. The inventors’ Declaration claims priority under 35 USC § 119(a), to Danish patent applications Nos. PA 2002 01456 and 2002 01738. The inventors’ Declaration also claims priority, under 35 USC § 119(e), to provisional application Serial No. 60/426,368, filed on November 15, 2002. The first paragraph of the specification herein was amended in a Preliminary Amendment filed on April 21, 2005 to refer to all of these priority applications. The language of this priority claim has been slightly changed in this Amendment. It is respectfully submitted that the present application has properly claimed priority both to the preceding provisional application and to the preceding Danish applications.

Specification. At the top of page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner refers to incorporation of essential material by reference. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify the significance of her comments in this regard.

35 USC § 112, second paragraph. On pages 5-12 of the Office Action, the Examiner raises various issues under the second paragraph of 35 USC § 112. Many of the changes suggested by the Examiner have been made by the present amendments of the claims. The

remaining issues raised by the Examiner on these pages of the Office Action have been rendered moot by the present extensive reduction in scope of the claims.

35 USC § 112, first paragraph. On pages 4-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner raises rejected claims 23-32 under the first paragraph of 35 USC § 112. Claims 25-32 have been cancelled, and the respective scopes of claims 23 (composition dependent upon amended claim 1) and 24 (method of use dependent upon amended claim 1) have been amended in a manner consistent with the relevant points made by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that claims 23 and 24 in their present form satisfy the requirements of the first paragraph of 35 USC § 112.

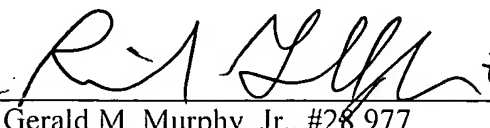
35 USC §§ 102-103. Claims 1, 2, 6-11, and 16-26 were rejected on pages 12-14 of the Office Action as being anticipated by or obvious from US 6,998,399 B2 (Galli). It is respectfully submitted that the claims herein as amended are neither anticipated by nor unpatentable over the Galli disclosure.

All of the rejections of record are overcome by the present Amendment. Accordingly, passage of this application to Issue is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative Richard Gallagher, Registration No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008 with any questions relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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